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Disarmament Review

By Peter Edson



A COMPLETE review of U. S. disarmament policies is now being made for Secretary of State Christian A. Herter Jr. and Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy.

It will encompass all previous studies made by Gov. Harold E. Stassen, UN Delegate James J. Wadsworth and others who have been principal U. S. negotiators on disarmament, plus any ideas that Nikita Khrushchev has to offer. It will see if new and more acceptable plans can be found.

A special study group of 16 experts under Charles A. Coolidge, Boston lawyer and experienced Government trouble shooter, is now at work on the problem full-time.

The Coolidge report will be completed this year. It will not be made public, but will be submitted direct to President Eisenhower and the National Security Council.

Any new plans for international arms control and arms reduction consistent with U. S. security requirements, as recommended by the Coolidge report, will be reflected in new proposals which the United States makes to the so-called Five-Five Disarmament subcommittee. Replacing the Big Four Committee, it will convene in Geneva in 1960 under the UN.

This Five-Five Committee takes its name from its composition of five free world and five communist countries. They are the United States, Britain, Canada, France and Italy; Russia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Rumania.

Mr. Coolidge brought Guido Parent, a Boston legal asso-

ciate, here to Washington as his principal deputy. He has three experts from Department of Defense under Admiral Arthur G. Davis and three from State Department under Joseph N. Grease Jr., former top assistant to the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. There are also representatives from Atomic Energy Commission, Central Intelligence Agency and Weapons System Evaluation Group.

This WSEG organization is a little-known body of scientific advisers to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It was organized by Vannevar Bush during World War II when there was some thought the Joint Chiefs needed a scientific staff.

The WSEG group is recruited by another little-known brains organization, the Institute for Defense Analysis, known as IDA. It was organized by five top scientific schools—Cal. Tech, Case, Mass. Tech, Stanford and Tulane.

Mr. Coolidge is also drawing on two other brains organizations for special studies and research. They are the Rand Corporation, which has contracts from the Air Force for scientific work, and Operations Research Organization, ORO—organized by Johns Hopkins University.

This is the first time that Mr. Coolidge has been called on as a Government trouble shooter in the past eight years. In 1951 he was asked to coordinate the foreign aid programs with State Department policy. He then became Assistant Secretary of Defense.

He made a special study for Secretary Charles E. Wilson on how to apply recommendations of the second Hoover Commission on Department of Defense reorganization. Next he advised on how to keep Government classified information from leaking. Last year he co-ordinated reorganization of the Pentagon.